

MARY JANE CROOK DUKE



Mary Jane Crook was born May 29, 1865, in Heber, Wasatch County, daughter

ter of John and Mary Giles Crook, who came to Utah on August 15, 1856, in E. D. Tripp's company.

Her grandparents, William and Sarah Huskinson Giles, came the same year and in the same company.

Mary Jane was born six years after the first settlers came to this valley. She saw this little community grow to a town and then to a city. She attended school in the little rock schoolhouse just across the road south of where the Jess Witt home now stands. She often told of her school subjects just being reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling. She was a good reader and speller.

Some of her girlhood companions were Rachel Cummings Giles, Margaret Cummings Clyde, Sarah Giles Mahoney, Elizabeth Rasband McDonald and Hannah Clegg Cummings. They remained friends all their lives and would often visit with each other. When 17 years of age she went to Provo, where she was employed by Mrs. Dan Jones and Mrs. Stewart as housekeeper or hired girl. Nancy Jones Mahoney also was working at Provo and while there they became very good friends. This friendship continued all their lives.

Mary Jane Crook and Malinda Cummings, girls of 21 and 19 years, were married to Jonathan O. Duke and Elisha J. Duke, brothers, on January 9, 1887, in the Logan Temple.

She became the mother of five children as follows: Ethel, Don C., Angus, who died at the age of four years; Merrill, and Grant. She loved her home.

In her early married life she, with her husband and two children, moved to Daniels. While there she was asked to work in the Primary as a counselor to Sarah Price Thacker, which she enjoyed very much. This gave her the chance to come in contact with these good people.

After she returned to Heber to make her home she was called to act as treasurer in the Second Ward Relief Society. She was also class leader in Mutual.

Her husband was called on a mission when her youngest child was a little over a year old. She, like many other missionaries' wives at that time, helped all she could with finances.

In 1918 she had a heart attack, from

which she never fully recovered. All through her suffering she was very patient.

Mary Jane Crook Duke died Monday, March 9, 1951, at her home, at the age of 65.